

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

3 CHARLES NEWTON,

Case No. 2:18-cv-00508-JCM-NJK

4 Plaintiff

ORDER

5 v.

6 JAMES DZURENDA et al.,

7 Defendants

8 This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a
9 former state prisoner. On January 15, 2019, this court issued an order directing plaintiff
10 to file his updated address with this court by February 14, 2019. (ECF No. 3). The
11 deadline has now expired, and plaintiff has not filed his updated address or otherwise
12 responded to the court's order.

13 District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and "[i]n the
14 exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . .
15 dismissal" of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831
16 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure
17 to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules.
18 See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance
19 with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal
20 for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856
21 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring
22 *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833
23 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson*
24 *v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and
failure to comply with local rules).

25 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
26 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
27 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
28 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring

1 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
2 *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130;
3 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

4 In the instant case, the court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
5 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the court's interest in managing the docket,
6 weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs
7 in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of
8 unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See
9 *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy
10 favoring disposition of cases on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor
11 of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
12 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
13 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779
14 F.2d at 1424. The court's order requiring plaintiff to file his updated address with the court
15 by February 14, 2019 expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if [p]laintiff fails
16 to timely comply with this order, the [c]ourt shall dismiss this case without prejudice."
17 (ECF No. 3 at 2). Thus, plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from
18 his noncompliance with the court's order to file his updated address by February 14, 2019.

19 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
20 plaintiff's failure to file an updated address in compliance with this court's January 15,
21 2019, order.

22 It is further ordered that the clerk of court will enter judgment accordingly.

23 DATED March 15, 2019.

24 
25 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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